

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Berrien County

Michigan · Saint Joseph · FIPS 26021 · Population 153,938 ·
Crosodo Index #973*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
MCL §289.4102	Great	50000	MEDIUM	2026-05-05

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

MICHIGAN: BERRIEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #973* · FIPS 26021 · Saint Joseph

Berrien County

Population 153,938 · State baseline: MCL \$289.4102 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Michigan allows home kitchen cottage food with no registration or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025 amendment, effective March 2026). Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online and mail-order with virtual or face-to-face interaction now permitted (2025 amendment). Allowed foods include non-PHF items: baked goods, candies, condiments, dry goods, preserves, snacks. Only two specific buttercream frosting recipes permitted.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (Berrien County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement by MDARD.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Michigan allows home kitchen cottage food with no registration or inspection required. Annual sales cap \$50,000 (raised by HB 4122, 2025 amendment, effective March 2026). Direct-to-consumer sales only. Online and mail-order with virtual or face-to-face interaction now permitted (2025 amendment). Allowed foods include non-PHF items: baked goods, candies, condiments, dry goods, preserves, snacks. Only two specific buttercream frosting recipes permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets in home for cottage food.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement under Michigan cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Good manufacturing practices apply.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products only; no fermented/acidified foods, pickles, fruit butters. Proper storage required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection. Complaint-based enforcement by MDARD.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — Berrien County may require a home occupation permit under local zoning. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer sales only. No consignment or wholesale. Online and third-party delivery platform sales now allowed with interaction requirement per 2025 amendment.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified by state law; local home occupation rules may apply.

Relevant county code

Berrien County Zoning Ordinance; MCL §289.4102

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. Michigan HB 4122 (2025) raised cap to \$50,000 and added online/delivery platform sales. No Berrien County-specific cottage food code identified.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county’s specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/berrien-county-discuss>

State context — Michigan cottage food law

Berrien County's rules sit on top of Michigan's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
MCL §289.4102	50000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Sales through retail stores, restaurants, or wholesale are prohibited. Online sales, mail order, and third-party delivery platform sales (e.g., DoorDash) are allowed in-state only, but require the producer to offer the customer an opportunity to directly interact (face-to-face or virtually) before purchase. A separate \$75,000 cap applies if all products are priced at \$250 or more per item. Honey and maple syrup have a separate exemption permitting indirect retail sales up to \$15,000/year.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Michigan cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-289-4102>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/michigan/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Berrien County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/michigan/berrien-county-discuss>
